

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th November 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Update on the Governing Body and the Annual Report for Learning and Skills

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the development of the Governing Body for Learning and Skills along with information on the successes and strategic decisions taken by the Learning and Skills Service during academic year 2016/17.

The Governing Body met for the first time on 20th October 2016 for the first stage of induction. During its infancy, the Board was supported by the National Leaders of Governance support service, funded by the Education and Training Foundation, to improve provider performance, support the chair of governors and improve board effectiveness. The induction took the board through the Terms of Reference of the Governing Body and the board reviewed the L&S Service's self-assessment plan and quality improvement plan to give background to board members about the position and the planned improvements to move the Service closer to becoming an outstanding provider and to help steer the Service in line with Stockton Borough Council and Tees Valley Combined Authority priorities.

The Board was further supported by the National Leaders of Governance officer, Karen Adriaanse – a former HMI for OFSTED who delivered a workshop on 'Outstanding Leadership and Management within the FE Sector'. Governors were clear on the OFSTED expectations of them and how they linked with the Service's own expectations from the board. Governors were using the OFSTED Common Inspection Framework to support them in their challenge and scrutiny of Learning and Skills performance reports.

In addition to board meetings, governors were involved in the celebration of the Service success and had participated in events such as the awards evenings and photography exhibitions. Link Governor roles were helping to strengthen safeguarding, 'Prevent' and Equality and Diversity across the Service.

Governors would further strengthen their support for the Service by carrying out Learning Walkthroughs to gain a more in depth awareness of the learning culture. The Learner representative would help strengthen the learner voice in shaping the future of the Service.

An attachment to the report showed the number of enrolments by ward area and demonstrated that the Adult Education Budget was well used to support learners from the most disadvantaged wards across the Stockton Borough.

As per the Service's strategic plan, the curriculum offer was fully aligned to Stockton Borough Council's strategic objectives and the Tees Valley Combined Authority priorities for economic growth. An attachment to the report showed that, in 2016/17, the curriculum had been purposefully aligned to priority areas where there were real job opportunities and that the bulk of funding had been targeted to support economic regeneration through up-skilling of local residents. 58.5% of Stockton learners were from the most disadvantaged wards of the Borough. This was an increase of 7.5% from 2015/16.

The priorities for 2017/18 were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The progress made in the development of the Board of Governors be noted.
2. The performance of the Learning and Skills Service be noted.
3. The priorities of the Service in 2017-18 be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To demonstrate the success of the newly formed Governing Body for Learning and Skills and their support and strategic oversight of the Service. To continue to develop and grow the learning and skills provision across all communities of Stockton Borough and to secure the best outcomes for adult education.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 13 - Update on the Governing Body and the Annual Report for Learning and Skills as he was a member of governor of Learning and Skills Service.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 13 - Update on the Governing Body and the Annual Report for Learning and Skills as he was a member of governor of Learning and Skills Service.

Councillor Norma Wilburn declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 13 - Update on the Governing Body and the Annual Report for Learning and Skills as she was on the Board of Governors at Stockton Riverside College.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 24 November 2017

Proper Officer
20 November 2017